



China's National Committee on Climate and Cryosphere Enters a *New Phase*



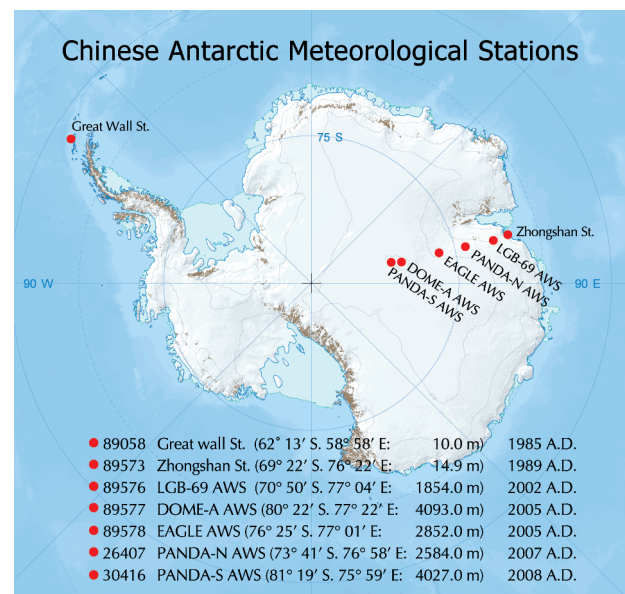
The second Chinese National Committee of the WCRP/SCAR Climate and Cryosphere project (CNC-CliC) met in Beijing on 26 February 2008 to launch a new phase. *Phase 2* is expected to strengthen research on climate and cryosphere in China, explore various aspects of advanced and innovative research concepts, and encourage international cooperation. The new CNC-CliC committee is made up of researchers from 18 national institutions distributed among 8 divisions including the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Meteorological Administration, and several universities.

Dr. Qin Dahe, Chair, presented a report from *Phase 1* (2001-2007) which focused on work tasks accomplished during the period, major progress in research on cryospheric sciences, supporting foundations; and establishment of, and future work for the new CNC-CliC committee. Each division head then introduced major research progression and future focus for their divisions. The following suggestions were raised:

- 1) Strengthen research on cryospheric processes, techniques used, and applications of the cryospheric sciences;
- 2) Provide efficient consultation and suggestions to the government on the consequences of cryospheric change;
- 3) Enhance international communication and cooperation; i.e., with the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), International programme of biodiversity science (DIVERSITAS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE);
- 4) Encourage young scientists to become more involved with the work of international organizations, and establishing links between international communities and Chinese teams;
- 5) Hold one scientific meeting per year for the Committee and for each division;
- 6) Take full advantage of the information resources available on the internet and strengthen communication between the Committee and its divisions;
- 7) Concentrate efforts on introducing standards in the area of cryosphere monitoring by setting up improved observational networks and strengthen validation for remote sensing by surface-based data;
- 8) Prepare for 2008 workshops on Cryospheric Change and on Glacier Inventory.



Mt. Everest is often referred to as the earth's 'third' pole. As such it is relatively inaccessible, and little is known about its meteorology. In 2005, an automatic weather station was operated at North Col (28°01' 0.95"N, 86°57' 48.4"E, 6,523 m a.s.l.) of Mt. Everest. Results show that pressure interpolated from 500 hPa level closer to the observation site could capture more synoptic-scale variability when comparing with that from the other levels, which may be due to the very complex topography around Mt. Everest and the intricately complicated orographic land-atmosphere-ocean interactions. The projects began during the first CNC-CliC phase and continues into *Phase 2*. (XIE Aihong *et al*, Chinese Academy of Sciences).



In recent years, and enhanced through IPY 2007-2009 as part of the PANDA project, strengthened observational networks were installed and are operating along the traverse line from Zhongshan Station to Dome A, the highest point (4093 m a.s.l.) of the East Antarctica ice sheet. The project was realized through cooperations with Australia and the USA. (XIAO Cunde and LU Longhua, Chinese Academy of Sciences).

CNC-CliC Membership

Scientific Steering Group (listed alphabetically)

CHEN Yiyu; CHENG Guodong; CUI Zhijiu; DING Yihui;
DONG Zhaoqian, HU Dunxin; JIANG Youxu; LI Jijun;
LIU Changming; SHI Yafeng; SUN Shufen;
WU Guoxiong; and ZHOU Xiuji.

Chair: QIN Dahe (qdh@cma.gov.cn)

Vice-Chairs: YAO Tandong; DING Yongjian; DONG Wenjie;
YANG Huigen; and MA Wei.

Committee Members (listed alphabetically)

BIAN Linggen; CHEN Yaning; CHEN Zhenlin;
DENG Mingjiang; DING Yongjian; DONG Wenjie; FU Bojie,
GUO Yaxi; HE Daming; HE Yuanqing; JIN Huijun;
KANG Shichang; LI Xin; LI Yaoqing; LI Yuansheng; LI Zhen;
LI Zhongqin; LIU Shiyin; LUO Yong; MA Wei; MA Yaoming;
QIN Dahe; REN Jiawen; SUN Bo; SUN Liguang; TIAN Lide;
WANG Genxu; WANG Ninglian; WEI Wenshou; WU Bingyi;
WU Qingbo; XIAO Cunde; YANG Huigen; YAO Tandong;
YE Baisheng, ZHANG Haisheng; ZHANG Jinzhao;
ZHANG Qiang; ZHANG Renhe; ZHANG Yili; ZHANG Xiaolei;
ZHAO Lin; ZHAO Xinquan; ZHU Liping.

Secretary General: DING Yongjian.

Vice-Secretary Generals: CHEN Zhenlin, XIAO Cunde, and
KANG Shichang.

Executive secretaries: XIE Aihong, YANG Jianping, and
QIN Xiang.

CNC-CliC Divisions

1. Ice and Snow
Head: WANG Ninglian and KANG Shichang
2. Frozen Ground/Permafrost
Head: WU Qingbai and ZHAO Lin
3. Hydrology in Cold Regions
Head: DENG Mingjiang and YE Baisheng
4. Ecology in Cold Regions
Head: WANG Genxu and ZHAO Xinquan
5. Cryosphere Change and Climate Prediction
Head: LUO Yong and WU Bingyi
6. Remote Sensing, Observation and Data
Head: LI Xin and LI Zhongqin
7. Cryospheric Science in Polar Regions
Head: XIAO Cunde and LI Yuansheng
8. Sustainable Economy and Society in Cryosphere Regions
Head: ZHANG Xiaolei and ZHANG Yili.

Division secretary: YANG Jianping

China in the International Polar Year

China participates in 35 IPY projects, 21 of these are linked to WCRP and/or SCAR.

Project 313, *Program of Antarctic Nova Disciplines Aspects (PANDA)*, is one of these. The transect from Prydz Bay-Amery Ice Shelf-Lambert Glacier Basin-Dome A is an interconnected ocean, ice-shelf and ice sheet system, which plays a very important role in east Antarctica mass balance, sea level and climate change. Dome A is a little known region of the Antarctic and – as it is the highest plateau of the Antarctic ice sheet – is an ideal place for observing the earth's environmental background and making new scientific findings in a range of disciplines. About thirty observation systems for glaciology, oceanography, geology/geophysics, sun-earth physics, atmospheric science and astronomy will be installed and implemented along the section by the international cooperative expeditions being led by China during IPY2007-2009 and beyond.

Association of Polar Early Career Scientist (APECS)

APECS has opened an Asia office at the *State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences* in Lanzhou, China. Early career scientists in Asia are encouraged to contact the office for further information about the organization:
Contact: XIAO Cunde at cdxiao@lzb.ac.cn.
See also: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/>.

Planned Asia-CliC Workshops/Conferences

- 20-24 Sep 2008: International Workshop on World Glacier Inventory. Lanzhou, China. Contact: IGS Secretary General at igsoc@igsoc.org; or Liu Shiyin at liusy@lzb.ac.cn.
- TBD 2008: International Workshop on Cryospheric Change (dates and venue to be determined).

The WCRP/SCAR Climate and Cryosphere Project (CliC)

The CliC project stimulates, supports, and coordinates research into the processes by which the cryosphere interacts with the rest of the climate system. The project addresses science in four major project themes: 1) The Terrestrial Cryosphere and Hydrometeorology of Cold Regions; 2) Ice Masses and Sea Level; 3) The Marine Cryosphere and Climate; and 4) Global Prediction of the Cryosphere. CliC supports the need to strengthen national and international structures for recovering and archiving cryospheric data. Cryospheric data are being lost rapidly, and the scientific community needs to work collectively towards preventing further losses. Please see <http://clic.npolar.no> or contact us at clic@npolar.no for further information.